

Board Study Session (Tuesday, March 31, 2015)

Generated by Shelley R Shelton on Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Members present

Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Jim Pettersson, Marsha Judkins, Michelle Kaufusi, Shannon Poulsen, Taz Murray

Staff present

Keith C. Rittel, Superintendent; Ray Morgan, Asst. Supt.; Stefanie Bryant, Business Administrator; Gary Wall, Exec. Director Human Resources; Gary Wilson, Exec. Director Student Services; Alex Judd, Director of Elementary Education; Shelley Shelton, Exec. Assistant

Meeting called to order at 7:31 AM

A. 7:30 a.m. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and real estate. Utah Code 52.4.205

1. Welcome: President Julie Rash
2. Roll Call
3. Keith: District / City Land Swap
4. Stef: OPEB
5. Stef: Negotiations Status

B. 8:10 a.m. Study Session

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM

2. Roll Call
3. Ray: Secondary Dual Language Immersion (DLI)

In response to feedback from the DLI Parent Meeting held in the PDC on February 24th, a parent survey was revised and parents of DLI students were given the opportunity to respond. On March 20th Jamie Leite and Ray Morgan met with Principals Mitch Swenson and Jarod Sites and Board Member McKay Jensen to review preliminary data from the survey and to discuss what the district could offer to support the continuation of DLI into the middle school for 2015-2016.

Jamie and Ray also met with staff in Student Services and the Provo eSchool to discover more about what

options could be possible for 7th and 8th graders. They also met with staff in the counseling office at Centennial Middle School to insure that what was being considered was doable.

Jamie and Ray met on March 19 and again reviewed the survey data and constructed a plan based on all of the conversations they had participated in with parents, principals, and board members. This plan was shared with the middle school principals and district leadership and some adjustments were made.

Mitch, Jamie, and Ray presented survey results and the attached plan to parents at Centennial Middle School on March 24. Parents were very receptive to the plan and appreciated the work that staff had done to respond to their feedback in creating a workable pathway for DLI students at the middle school level.

Utah's DLI program will be continued into Provo City School District's middle schools as follows:

- Dixon Middle School: Spanish (currently offered) and Portuguese (Fall 2018)
- Centennial Middle School: Chinese (Fall 2015), French (Fall 2015), Spanish (Fall 2016)

World Language 3 DLI Honors:

- This class will be a year-long course offered during the school day to advance student fluency in the target language. The course will also prepare students for the AP Foreign Language course in high school. Students can earn 1.0 high school credit through completion of this course in 7th grade. Students can also earn 1.0 high school credit for taking World Language 4 DLI Honors in 8th grade.

If World Language 3 DLI Honors is taken, students may also choose to enroll in:

- DLI Culture and Media: This optional companion course to Level 3 DLI Honors provides further experience in the language to support student fluency and preparation for the AP class. DLI Culture and Media is a semester-long elective that may be taken once or twice in a year. Each middle school is prepared to offer DLI Culture and Media once during first semester and once during second semester according to student interest. Students can earn up to 1.0 high school credit for completing this course twice during 7th or 8th grades.

Registration Information: Provo City School District middle schools automatically assign required courses to each student during registration. Parents should refer to their respective middle school's registration information for details. 7th graders may choose 3 semester-long electives and 8th graders may choose 4 semester-long electives. One year-long course is the equivalent of 1.0 credit. Parents may choose to direct all of their 7th grade electives to dual language immersion, but they are not required to do so.

Opt-Out/Dual Enrollment Options: Dual enrollment in the State of Utah gives flexibility to parents in directing their child's education. Dual enrollment enables students to opt-out of a course to allow for additional electives in their school day. There is no fee for dual enrollment. Dual Enrollment options vary but may include an alternate course at the middle school, homeschool, Provo e-School, BYU independent study, etc. A semester-long course through Provo e-School is \$140 during the school year if the student is already enrolled in seven periods a day. During the summer, a semester-long course through Provo e-School is \$80.

Permission for dual enrollment can be obtained on-site from the middle school principal as long as a student simply wants to substitute one course for another and does not drop below seven periods. A Middle School Opt-Out/Dual Enrollment Form can be obtained from the middle school counseling office. This form requires a counselor's and the principal's signatures. Parents may begin meeting with counselors to pursue dual enrollment after Spring Break; class periods and teacher assignments for specific classes cannot be provided until August. To be enrolled in fewer than seven periods a day at the middle school, parents must complete a notarized form at Student Services in the district office.

Flex Time: Because of the interest in increased language opportunities, both middle schools will have the target language teachers provide enrichment opportunities for students during flex time. Flex time is not a credit-bearing period.

Before of After School Club: At this time, there has not been sufficient interest to support before or after school classes for dual language immersion.

In response to questions from board members, Mr. Morgan shared the following:

- Are non DLI students and their parents aware of the opt-out option?
 - Schools have been in an awkward situation. A balance needs to be struck between informing all students/parents and essentially making an announcement that any course can be waived.
 - If a student drops below seven credits, the parent needs to go to Student Services and complete a form to be recognized as a home school parent.
- How were parents notified of the survey?
 - The survey was emailed to all sixth grade parents from their respective school, and it was posted on the website. In addition, a flyer was sent home with students.

4. Keith: (10 min.) Benevolent Fund

Supt. Rittel introduced the concept of creating a "taking care of our own" fund employees could donate to that would be of great help to employees in need due to catastrophic events.

This will require establishment of a Board, with quarterly meetings. 501c3 status will be applied for with the IRS, and if granted would create a tax deductible contribution for those who donate. Draft documents for creating a 501c3 are attached and will be used for submission to the IRS.

If 501c3 status is granted, employees could donate to that fund via a payroll deduction and receive a tax deduction for their donation. An application process would be established by the Board of the Benevolent Fund to determine who would be eligible for use of the funds, and what situations the funds would be available for use, etc. The restrictions on who would qualify would of necessity be tight.

Questions:

How often does the need arise? Would it warrant having a board meet quarterly?

- There are approximately 4-5 cases per year. The meeting schedule would be determined based on the need.

How much money would be needed?

- A set balance would need to be set; we would need to grow funds before the fund is accessed.
- Employees also currently have the option of donating vacation days to someone dealing with a catastrophic event.

Would other fund raising options be explored in addition to the benevolent fund?

- The fund would be employee driven and not in competition with the Foundation.

What is the timeline?

- The hope is to have everything in place for next fall.

5. Caleb: (10 min.) District Logo Options

Communications & PR Coordinator Caleb Price shared the student logo designs submitted from Timpview High School. Board members each selected their top three preferences and made suggestions for possible modifications. The finalists will be posted on the district office bulletin board and on the district's Facebook page for community input and voting. Caleb will email design changes to the board tomorrow; the board will respond to finalists tomorrow and Thursday.

The new logo will be announced and students who designed the logos will be recognized during the May 12 board meeting.

6. (5 min.) Calendar Review

C. Adjourn

1. Motion to Adjourn

I move we adjourn the study session and move into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations.

Motion by Michelle Kaufusi, second by Taz Murray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Michelle Kaufusi, Shannon Poulsen, Taz Murray

Not Present at Vote: Jim Pettersson

The study session was adjourned 9:20 a.m.